

programs of all times, including the authorization of a second Bay crossing, a new Baltimore Harbor Tunnel, bridges across the Patuxent River and the Sinepuxent Bay and a vast enlargement of the State's bonding authority to step up the highway construction program. No matter that the General Assembly took a bold step to eliminate the present hodgepodge of juvenile services by uniting these services in a single department, thus affording the public a greater measure of safety against the anti-social activities of juvenile delinquents. No matter that legislation was adopted to control the indiscriminate sale of handguns; or that safety laws were strengthened by requiring 16 and 17-year-old youths to have 30 hours of driving before receiving their licenses to drive.

The Director of the Department of Chesapeake Bay affairs has been quoted as saying fisheries legislation adopted by the 1966 session is the most significant development in marine conservation that Maryland has experienced in 50 years. He had in mind, among other things, a bill authorizing his Department to close oyster bars to allow oysters to grow to a marketable size, as well as measures regulating dredging and limited the sale of rockfish. The Insurance Commissioner told reporters that his Department "batted 1,000 per cent" in comprehensive insurance legislation designed to extend additional protection to Maryland citizens, both policy holders and claimants. He said that he as Commissioner, through legislation passed at the session, had been given the tools he needed to drive the undesirable and in financially unsound insurance companies out of the State. Adopted at the session was a budget—true, the largest, but the most far-reaching annual fiscal program in the history of the State—a budget providing for substantial expansions and improvements in programs so vital to the health, happiness and prosperity of the people—programs of education, public health, mental hygiene, road building, park expansion, public safety. But the Cooper-Hughes Bill, the most drastic tax measure to be presented to the Legislature in our time, went down in defeat. It passed the Senate but failed by two votes in the House of Delegates. And so, we are told, we have a "do-nothing" Legislature and an executive office devoid of leadership, or so it is charged by a hostile press and by politicians haunted by ambition and desperately seeking an issue upon which they can propel themselves to undeserved fame.

I was deeply disappointed when the Cooper-Hughes Bill died on the floor of the House of Delegates on the final night of the regular session. The slim margin of defeat heightened the disappointment. I have said—and I repeat—that I made a greater effort to bring about